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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Ho Chi Minh Government forces are preparing to attack Xieng Khouang in Laos (103-22, 19-19) with the support of the Free Laos forces of Prince Souphanavong.\* It is planned to set up a Laos Government headed by Souphanavong which will be recognized by the Soviet Union and by Communist China.\*\* The Viet Minh forces also plan to cut the French communications line at Pakse (105-47, 15-07) on the Mekong River.

2.

\* [ ] Comment. For information concerning the negotiations between Prince Souphanavong, Free Lao leader, and the Viet Minh and the growth of Viet Minh control over Souphanavong and the elements supporting him see [ ]

\*\* [ ] Comment. Over the past six months there has been increasing evidence of the importance with which the Ho Chi Minh regime regards developments in Laos and Cambodia. There have been numerous reports of increased shipments of arms from Viet Minh sources to "Free Laos" and "Free Cambodian" guerrilla forces fighting the French. In addition there has been increased military activity in both Laos and Cambodia by purely Vietnamese Viet Minh forces with the apparent ultimate aim of gaining control of areas along the Thai-Indochinese frontier. Reports [ ] have repeatedly stated that the Viet Minh representatives responsible for arms procurement in Thailand had been ordered to give high priority to the shipment of arms to units fighting in Laos and Cambodia.

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